

Week: for **September 30, 2020**

Scripture: **John 5:1-30**

Bottom Line: **Jesus is the only one who makes dead people come alive.**

A personal note from **Camille**: this week, the focus is on verses 21-28. There is a lot in this passage – a lot being said, implied, taught, etc. and there is no way to cover it all in a 15-minute talk. For the sake of this particular teaching the focus was on Jesus having God's power because he is God's son and Jesus being the one who gives life. It's a great opportunity to share the gospel and ask your students if they have "received Jesus by believing in his name." If yes, have them share more about that. If no, why not? Where are they? What questions are they asking?

- Use the following questions to help move group discussion along, draw them out, and get them talking.
- As always, feel free to adapt or change or edit these as you see fit. If you want to get some more ideas look at "The Art of Group Talk" for guys or girls in the leader lounge, or other resources you find there.
- If you do get any feedback, questions, comments, or connections on the teaching tonight – please let one of our staff know so we can follow up in the live Q&A on Friday afternoon!
- **MAKE SURE** you find out how to be praying for them right now and take time to pray together before you exit.

Questions for discussion:

In this Passage

1. How and why does the healing of the paralyzed man bring about controversy between Jesus and the Jewish Religious Leaders?
2. How would you describe what it means for Jesus to give life to the dead?
3. How does one receive the life that Jesus gives? (John 1:13; 5:24) Why do we need to receive this life?

For Reflection

1. Where in your life do you try and find or create life for yourself vs. Jesus? (e.g. status, power, etc.)
2. Do you believe that only Jesus has the power to give life? Have you received life in the Father through the Son and by the Spirit? If yes, can they share that story of when they first believed in Jesus and what that looks like / means for them in the present day? If no, why? do they have questions about that?

Looking at the passage as a whole

1. Read back through the passage - what do you see Jesus doing? Remember the sequence of what Jesus is doing here – sign or claim; controversy provoked; people forced to make a decision about who Jesus is. We see this pattern over and over in John, specifically chapters 2-12.
2. What stood out to you or surprised you in this passage?
3. What questions does this passage leave you with?
(Leaders: We'd love for you to share these with us to use for our Friday Q&A.)

This passage has glimpses of the Trinity all over it and your discussion could bring up questions about the Trinity. I did not get a chance to touch on that in the talk but below is the third question for the New City Catechism would be good to put before your students.

Q: How Many Persons Are There in God?

A: There are three persons in the one true and living God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They are the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

And some examples of Trinity language and the unity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Genesis 1:1-3; Isaiah 48:16; John 1:1-5; Matthew 3:16-17; Acts 10:38; Ephesians 1:17

For what it's worth here is an article from the The Gospel Coalition on why Jesus is either telling the truth and he really is the Son of God or he's an imposter. Or to quote C.S. Lewis he's either Lord, Lunatic or Liar.

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justin-taylor/is-c-s-lewiss-liar-lord-or-lunatic-argument-unsound/>